

## Frequently asked questions about the way appeals are dealt with

- What is a 'relevant appeal body'?

The relevant appeal body is the organisation that will consider your appeal.

- Who decides which organisation deals with my appeal?

Depending on when you made your complaint, one of the following will decide who deals with your appeal:

- the chief officer of the police force
- the appropriate authority (for example the chief constable of the police force)
- the local policing body for the police force (for example a Police and Crime Commissioner)

If you made your complaint on or after the 22 November 2012, the appropriate authority or local policing body for the police force will decide who deals with your appeal. <sup>1</sup>This decision will be based on the allegations you made when you complained.

- How will I know which organisation will deal with my appeal?

You will be told which organisation will deal with your appeal when you receive a decision that has a right of appeal.

- Who will consider my appeal?

Depending on the situation, the relevant appeal body will be either the IPCC or the chief officer of the police force.

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<sup>1</sup> This date changes to 8 April 2015 if your complaint was about a contractor working for a police force.

- What can I do if I think a different organisation should deal with my appeal?

Speak to the organisation that wrote to you to explain your right to appeal. The IPCC does not decide which organisation should deal with appeals.

- If the chief officer of the police force is the relevant appeal body for my appeal, who will actually deal with my appeal?

The chief officer of the police force can delegate dealing with the appeal to a police officer of at least the rank of chief inspector. Alternatively, they could delegate dealing with it to a police staff member who is of a similar level. The appeal cannot be dealt with by someone who investigated your complaint, or someone who was involved in the local resolution of your complaint.

- What can I do if I am unhappy with the findings of my appeal?

You can contact the person who dealt with your appeal to ask for more information. However, the findings of the appeal are final and you do not have any further rights of appeal. If you would like to challenge an appeal outcome you should seek independent legal advice.

- When can the IPCC become involved in dealing with my appeal?

The IPCC can only consider appeals if the chief officer, appropriate authority or local policing body has identified us as being the organisation that needs to deal with your appeal. If we receive an appeal where the appropriate authority has decided that the chief officer of the police needs to deal with your appeal and we agree the IPCC **must** forward it to the chief officer. The IPCC will have no involvement in dealing with your appeal.